

HAROLD & MARIAN

MARIAN: Professor Hill, I think Mayor Shinn has behaved abominably and I think it was wonderful of you coming to Tommy's defense.

HAROLD: Oh, that was nothing.

MARIAN: Yes it was.

HAROLD: Oh, no. A man can't dodge the issue every time a little personal risk is involved – what does the Poet say? The coward dies a thousand deaths, the brave man only 500. Unfortunately, of course, the Mayor was already pretty mad on account of his Billiard Parlor. Now ... Oh, I suppose a recommendation from a musical authority like yourself would help, but – I couldn't think of asking you to do a thing like that.

MARIAN: Why, Professor Hill.

HAROLD: You would?

MARIAN: I'd be glad to. I just wish I was a little more informed – I've been wanting to talk to you about Winthrop's Cornet.

HAROLD: His Cornet? Mother-of-pearl keys.

MARIAN: I'm sure it's fine. But you see he never touches it. Oh, the first week or so, he made a few – ah – experimental – blats? I guess you'd say?

HAROLD: Yes ... yes, blats.

MARIAN: And he sings the (singing it) "Minuet in G de da" almost constantly.

HAROLD: La de da de da de da de da. La de da. La de da ...

MARIAN: But he never touches the Cornet.

HAROLD: Well, you see –

MARIAN: He says you told him it wasn't necessary.

HAROLD: Well.

MARIAN: He tells me about some "Thin System". If he thinks the "Minuet in G", he won't have to bother with the notes. Now Professor ...

HAROLD: Miss Marian. The Think System is a revolutionary method, I'll admit. So was Galileo's conception of the Heavens, Columbus' conception of the egg – ah – globe, Bach's conception of the Well-Tempered Clavichord. Hmmm? Now I cannot discuss these things here in public. But if you will allow me to call ... when may I call?

MARIAN: Why, any night this week ...